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NEWS RELEASE

May 12, 2009

Contact: Mark Pershouse, associate professor, UM Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, 406-243-4769, mark.pershouse@umontana.edu.

UM OFFERS INTRODUCTORY CLASS ON CANCER DURING SUMMER SESSION

MISSOULA –

The University of Montana will offer a new, five-week introductory course on cancer this summer that is open to students in all majors. Introduction to Cancer Biology will provide an overview for undergraduate students interested in an accessible course on cancer and its treatment and prevention.

The three-credit course has no prerequisites and satisfies the lecture portion of the natural science general education requirement. It will be held from 1 to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday during the second summer session, June 29-July 30, in air-conditioned Skaggs Building Room 117.

The class will be taught by course coordinator Mark Pershouse. Additional faculty members will teach sections on cancer epidemiology, familial and non-familial cancers, and the fundamentals of cancer treatment. The final lectures on the latest options in cancer treatment will be given by Dr. Patrick Beatty, president of the Montana Cancer Institute, a UM-St. Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center collaboration.

Pershhouse says the class will start slowly, introducing simple concepts of how cells grow and die, but by the end of five weeks, students will understand how drugs and radiation treat cancer, how scientists identify cancer-causing chemicals and how cancer is identified by pathologists.

To register, visit <http://www.umt.edu/cyberbear>. The course registration number is 51424. For more information, call Pershhouse at 406-243-4769 or e-mail mark.pershhouse@umontana.edu.

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